



A  
LETTER

Humbly inscribed to the Right Honourable, The

EARL OF CHESTERFIELD.

By Mrs. Terefia Constantia Muilman.



FOR THE

A

BY THE

Jointly intended to the Right Honorable The

Baron of Chesterfield

By His Lordship's Secretary

FOR THE



A  
LETTER

Humbly addressed to the  
RIGHT HONOURABLE,  
THE  
EARL of CHESTERFIELD.

---

BY  
Mrs. TERESIA CONSTANTIA MUILMAN.

---



---

LONDON,

Printed for the AUTHOR;

And sold at her House in *White Hart-Street, Queen-Square.*  
M. DCC. L.

LETTER

RIGHT HONORABLE

Ball of Christyfield.

MASSACHUSETTS



W O D O I

RECEIVED

1944-1945





A

# LETTER

Humbly address'd

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE, The  
EARL of CHESTERFIELD.

My LORD :

WHEN you jocosely recommended to me, the writing of the *whole duty of woman*, I dare say, you imagin'd the thought expir'd in the birth: first, that I believe your lordship does not conceive me capable of a task of such solidity and good judgment; and lastly, that my own actions have been conducted with so little wisdom and discretion, it is hardly possible to imagine, that she, who has judg'd so ill for herself, can have any conception what the duty of a woman really is, or ought to be. I confess my general conduct justifies your opinion of me; but were appearances still stronger against me, I am conscious my misconduct has not arisen from ignorance, so much as a thousand concurring unhappy circumstances that have attended me; and I readily take shame to myself, that my love of pleasure and neglect of the more material part has had no small share in my misdoing. However, my Lord, notwithstanding reason disap-

proves, and that I stand even self-condemned, give me leave to assure you still you are mistaken; and that what I appear to be, or at least what your lordship seems to think me, has no more resemblance of the real woman, than the greatest opposites in human nature have to each other.

But, my Lord, my saying this, will be no proof of your mistake; unless I can otherwise demonstrate what I assert: therefore I hope I shall be the more pardonable, if I present your lordship with an instance you are well acquainted with. That five and twenty Years makes a total alteration not only in us, but our opinion of things; I would only beg leave to ask your lordship, if those who have the honour now to approach you, should look upon you as the gay pleasure-loving, wild, unthinking Lord *Stanhope*, amidst your companions of the same age, never imagining that twenty years, excellently well employed, had made any change or improvement; good heaven! how would they be deceived, nay, — would they not even deserve contempt that could so imagine, when instead of the unthinking follies natural to that age, in this they would see the most finished pattern, of what man ought to be, that any age has ever yet produced?

Your Lordship has done me the honour to tell me, I am no bad painter in black and white. Have a care then, — you are now sitting for your picture; and were I sure to lose the little reputation I have gained as an artist this way, I am determined to make it so like, it shall want nothing but animation. I know how unconcerned you are at the menace, while no conscious blush of inward guilt disfigures the original. Here then you are. — The canvas, or ground work, is greatness of mind, integrity



integrity, strict honour, and a noble birth.—Pray observe the features: There is gravity without moroseness, the most piercing wit without ill nature, perfect good breeding without affection, and a benevolence of heart that adds lustre to the whole.

—Well, I have lost my art, if any one, who has the honour to have ever so distant a knowledge of your lordship, hesitates to pronounce it like as the life. The picture being finished, I suppose it will be expected I should put the drapery on:—No, no, my lord, I shall give myself the airs of an artist, and leave that to the daubers.

My lord, I had most cautiously avoided a representation of these rare and amiable qualities, because I really have an utter detestation to any thing that has the least shadow or appearance of flattery; and, it is hardly possible to do even justice to your lordship, without so far stirring up the envy of the generality of your sex (for, my lord, the men will envy sometimes as well as the ladies) that I shall be accused of a vice that my soul abhors, while I am telling nothing but the most solemn truths; therefore would have shun'd the mention I have made of you, had I not been under a sort of necessity to introduce a proof of my judgement in men, and such a one, as I am sure will be approv'd of by every unprejudiced person into whose hands this may happen to fall; for I take it for granted, if I do not raise the expectation of my readers by shewing my judgment in men, they will conceive but an unfavourable opinion of what I shall hereafter recommend as the duty of a woman; but I believe at present I have given a test that will put it out of dispute.

But as I just hinted concerning what I appear to be, and really am: when I wait upon your lord-

proves, and that I stand even self-condemned, give me leave to assure you still you are mistaken ; and that what I appear to be, or at least what your lordship seems to think me, has no more resemblance of the real woman, then the greatest opposites in human nature have to each other.

But, my Lord, my saying this, will be no proof of your mistake ; unless I can otherwise demonstrate what I assert : therefore I hope I shall be the more pardonable, if I present your lordship with an instance you are well acquainted with. That five and twenty Years makes a total alteration not only in us, but our opinion of things ; I would only beg leave to ask your lordship, if those who have the honour now to approach you, should look upon you as the gay pleasure-loving, wild, unthinking Lord *Stanhope*, amidst your companions of the same age, never imagining that twenty years, excellently well employed, had made any change or improvement ; good heaven ! how would they be deceived, nay, — would they not even deserve contempt that could so imagine, when instead of the unthinking sallies natural to that age, in this they would see the most finished pattern, of what man ought to be, that any age has ever yet produced.

Your Lordship has done me the honour to tell me, I am no bad painter in black and white. Have a care then, — you are now sitting for your picture ; and were I sure to lose the little reputation I have gained as an artist this way, I am determined to make it so like, it shall want nothing but animation. I know how unconcerned you are at the menace, while no conscious blush of inward guilt disfigures the original. Here then you are. — The canvas, or ground work, is greatness of mind, integrity



integrity, strict honour, and a noble birth.—Pray observe the features: There is gravity without moroseness, the most piercing wit without ill nature, perfect good breeding without affection, and a benevolence of heart that adds lustre to the whole.

—Well, I have lost my art, if any one, who has the honour to have ever so distant a knowledge of your lordship, hesitates to pronounce it like as the life. The picture being finished, I suppose it will be expected I should put the drapery on:—No, no, my lord, I shall give myself the airs of an artist, and leave that to the daubers.

My lord, I had most cautiously avoided a representation of these rare and amiable qualities, because I really have an utter detestation to any thing that has the least shadow or appearance of flattery; and, it is hardly possible to do even justice to your lordship, without so far stirring up the envy of the generality of your sex (for, my lord, the men will envy sometimes as well as the ladies) that I shall be accused of a vice that my soul abhors, while I am telling nothing but the most solemn truths; therefore would have shun'd the mention I have made of you, had I not been under a sort of necessity to introduce a proof of my judgement in men, and such a one, as I am sure will be approv'd of by every unprejudiced person into whose hands this may happen to fall; for I take it for granted, if I do not raise the expectation of my readers by shewing my judgment in men, they will conceive but an unfavourable opinion of what I shall hereafter recommend as the duty of a woman; but I believe at present I have given a test that will put it out of dispute.

But as I just hinted concerning what I appear to be, and really am: when I wait upon your lord-

ship with my usual sprightliness, and gaiety, pleased with the chit-chat of an hour, my loss of beauty is forgotten, and you go back five and twenty years, for my entertainment: yes; and, that I may think you in earnest, even condescend to suit your conversation to that gay time, imagining, no doubt, that I have too much of the woman in my composition to endure the thoughts of antiquated beauty: but, my lord, believe me, I am so little out of humour with my loss that way, I could, with infinite pleasure and entertainment to myself, talk to your lordship upon graver matters, without being under any apprehension my sentiments would lessen me in your esteem. 'Tis true I was born constitutionally with the greatest share of vivacity and spirits of any woman in the world; but, my lord, I may say by fortune, as *Milton* upon his own blindness: *In my beginning I was presented with an universal blank; and the obligations I had to nature, were perverted by my accidental poverty, which turned that beauty that was bestowed on me, to so many snares by which I was ruin'd and undone; and in consequence have passed my life in sorrow and misery:* and however this declaration may shock your lordship's belief, it is most solemnly true; for when in my youth, a time in which we are generally too much taken up with our pleasures, and the gratification of our passions, to give ourselves leisure to reflect upon the rectitude of the means by which we obtain them; even then, I say, when we cheat our understandings with the dazzling prospects of imaginary pleasures, — I was wretched; — because the pleasures I tasted, had not their foundation upon a just and honourable basis. — I was allur'd and flatter'd by gay, gaudy appearances, because I saw the eyes and adoration of the world followed those appearances; but,



but, my lord, my nightly slumbers, and the moments we are wont to turn our eyes inward, were disturb'd, and the sweets of rest embittered by the stinging reflections that follow'd the means, by which those appearances were supported. Still went I on, in hopes of better fate, 'till I found myself in the condition of a young prodigal, who, having brought his fortune to the last stake, hazards even that, hoping still to retrieve; and like him too, (but alas! too late) I found myself cheated and undone: and this, (will you believe me, my Lord?) I soon found out; but at the same time perceived that cruel bar for ever shut against me, a bar fashion'd by custom against our unhappy sex, when once they offend against virtue's sacred rule, which rigorously excludes us from any degree of fame, be our future conduct ever so nice, or scrupulously regular. And this very tyrannic, unchristian custom, which I am morally convinced has ruined innumerable women, was the reason I became careless of my conduct; because I found all efforts to retrieve my loss were vain: for, my lord, were it otherwise, believe me, no woman of birth, having had but a tolerable education, could possibly, when reflections return'd, submit to live in any degree of infamy, let the temptations be ever so great and flattering. For my own part, I most solemnly aver, I would not; to have been mistress even to an emperor, I should have always look'd upon as a state of infamy, misery, and dependence, to which I should have esteemed the humblest condition of innocence that can be imagin'd, infinitely preferable; and so true it is, that this particular infamy, that is cast upon us when we make the smallest slip in our conduct, prevents not only our return to virtue, but makes us  
careless

careless of preserving even the appearances of it : let us live ever so long, the same prejudice against us still continues ; for instance in myself : though I have been for several years quite retired from the world, my appearance lately as a writer having obliged me in some shape to renew my acquaintance, wherever I go I am shock'd to find the men still continue to think me young ; or at least to prevent my remembring they are not, I am every where entertained with the same ludicrous stuff, they would talk to a girl of fifteen. Oh heaven ! could they view themselves with my eyes, or hear with my ears, how would they blush to play the *Pantaloon* to a woman whose soul abhors such buffoonery ; and to make my mortification still the greater, I am under a necessity to adapt my conversation to the farce they think fit to play : because even a look of disapprobation, might possibly expose me to their ridicule, and I might be insulted for what these people would term my hypocrisy. Therefore, at the age of forty, when I wait upon a great man, with whom I had the honour to become acquainted at fifteen, we converse in masquerade ; he with his air of twenty-five, I with mine of fifteen ; which means no more than that he is afraid, I should think he is grown old, and had forsaken his vices ; and in that case, would be under a necessity to treat me with the sense and gravity becoming both our ages.

Now, my Lord, these are the disadvantages we labour under from being born women ; and they are such, that, for my own part, were beauty as lasting as our date of life, to change my sex I would be contented to be as deformed and ugly as *Æsop* : tho' I am confident, did custom countenance



tenance us in the accidental fallies of our youth, and they were to be forgotten, as in men, I could vie with the most prudent of your sex for the regularity of my conduct these many years, and for the moral part of it always. It would look too much like writing my own panegyric, were I to give your lordship a faithful account of my private life; and I also know, that tho' I could demonstrate what I here hint at, incontestibly to my own honour; yet this very custom I so bitterly complain of, is so universally prevalent, there is neither man or woman, by whose company or conversation I could think myself honour'd, that would dare publickly countenance me, or *seem* to believe it possible I should possess any of the moral virtues, having unhappily err'd in the point of chastity: *seem* to believe I say, my lord, because there is no law, divine or human, that countenances these sort of gallantries more in one sex than in the other; therefore must this belief be only *seeming*. You will all admit men may be even profligate in their amours, and none of you will dispute their being in all other respects men of honour, and, as such, they are admitted into all companies, and by all ranks and degrees of people: and yet, my lord, this difference between us has no other sanction than custom, cruel, unequal custom!

Here I must beg leave to carry my reflections still a little farther; for example: who denies Mr. *Thomas Grimes* to be a man of honour and integrity? Yet this very man, first betray'd and ruin'd the unhappy Miss *Phillips*, basely, nay villainously ruin'd her, and after that abandoned her to sorrow, misery and infamy; which was the source of all the ruin and unhappiness that has since be-

fallen her, and for which she is despis'd and shun'd by the modest and valuable part of her own sex, and treated with levity by yours. *Tartasse* too, is received into the houses of all the great people in *England*! tho' there is not a debauchery, meanness, hypocrisy, or dishonourable action that can be thought of, he has not been guilty of. No man blushes to own he visits and is acquainted with, Mr. *Henry Muilman*; tho' he stands upon record, perjured, beyond even the hopes of mercy, in public accused of every horrid crime the laws has yet invented a punishment for; and so accused, that neither by himself, or any hireling under his inspection, has one syllable he is charg'd with, been ever contradicted.

My lord, does any history furnish three such instances of distinguished villainy in men? yet are their atrocious crimes buried beneath a heap of wealth, and custom favours their actions to such a degree, neither of them are neglected, shun'd, or despis'd by the world, and men associate with them as tho' they stood as fair in the records of fame, as ever *Socrates* did.—Have I not therefore reason to repine, that the laws of honour should be so unequally rigid with regard to us, when it indulges our seducers and betrayers with unlimited bounds to their pleasures, and the frequenting them without reproach?—yes, my lord, I have; and I am sure you will be one of the first to own, there is neither justice nor reason for this cruel, unchristian custom; the fear of which has cost the lives of millions of infants, both unborn, and the moment of their birth. There is nothing so savage and brutal in our natures, as to inspire us with a resolution to commit sanguinary acts of cruelty, if we were not terrified by the apprehension, that a discovery would expose us to shame and infamy irretrievable



trievable. In fine, my lord, this evil is pregnant with almost every misfortune which happens to us. Were returning virtue to be rewarded with the favour and approbation of the world, you would soon see it crouded with penitents of this sort; and it would be giving our sex an opportunity to convince you, they are not inferior to your's either in virtue or purity of morals, when once they arrive at an age capable of judging for themselves; but, my lord, in the first out-setting of a young girl's life, if she makes a slip from honour, how quick soever her return be, tho' her life and conduct should ever after escape even the cancor of envy, yet she shall be branded to her last moments with that misfortune; and if she is beautiful, every man thinks he has a right to demand the possession of her person, upon the same base terms with the first: and really, my lord, considering you are the law-makers, and always seduce us to offend them, I think in honour and justice, there should be some lesser punishment, than that of eternal infamy, affix'd to a crime in which you are the principal aiders and abettors, or else that the crime, should be equally odious in both; *for at present the thief is exempted from punishment, and it is only the party despoiled who suffers death.*

For my part, my life has been one continued scene of error, mistake, and unhappiness. I was, by my ill fate, left mistress of myself, before the time. I ought to have forsaken my nursery: a great dutchess indeed would have been my kind protectress, and have done by my education, what the good lady H\*\*\*\*f\*x did by your lordship during your infancy; but it pleas'd my father to (what he called) mortify her, by a removal of me from her protection. Like your lordship too, I launched

early into the world ; but you, with all the advantages of high birth, and a glorious fortune ; I with nothing but my beauty, which indeed, while it lasted, amply supplied the deficiencies of my fortune. No man living ever made a more splendid figure, than your lordship has done abroad ; no woman, let her fortune be what it will, (out of *England*) made a genteeler one than myself. But, my lord, you travelled to do your country immortal honour ; I wandered in foreign countries, because strangers paid me those honours I was denied in my own ; till tir'd with seeing and being seen, I return'd to my native home, always pined after, tho' the only one in which I have been ill treated. However from the strange vicissitudes of my fortune, I have at length gleaned this useful and necessary part of philosophy : *I have lived in the world long enough to despise it ; I have sought for a friend till I am tired with the search, and I find the only real comforts we enjoy are those we make to ourselves, which if I remember right, my lord, were in part the sentiments you were in, when I had last the honour to see you ; and vain and presumptuous, as any sort of comparison between us must be, it has been of infinite consolation to me, when I roam up and down my little garden, and frequently, " in my mind's eyes " behold your lordship the same way employ'd, it is then I look down upon the world, and rejoice from my soul, when I reflect my way of thinking in some degree has a likeness of your lordship's.*

The ill treatment I have met with from the world, has taught me wisdom, but no hardness of heart : I am content, — consequently chearful ; and I feel so little of the envious reflections of decay'd beauty, I am never so happy as when I can contribute



bute to the mirth and pleasure of those about me.

In this little state of tranquillity I move; but, as life would soon become tiresome had we no end to pursue, mine is bent on the preservation and happiness of an only sister and her little family, of whom I am the sole support and dependence. Part of these is one daughter, now about the age of fifteen; and, in the pains I have taken with her education, will be best described my sentiments of the *true duty of a woman*.

My lord, I have taught her to love and fear God as the first principle, on which her every other happiness depends; for the modish way of teaching young ladies this first of duties, I look upon as one of the most shocking neglects in their education; and so little is this essential part regarded, if you ask of what religion a fine lady is, she is scarce able to give you a rational answer: indeed if you proceed farther, and touch upon the rules and tenets of it, you find them, *for the most part*, totally ignorant; and I must confess in either sex, where they have not *real religion*, by which, my lord, I don't mean any particular cult, but the true love and fear of God, there can be no other moral virtue: for I can very soon bring myself to conceive, what the man or woman's actions must be, who have no dependence upon future reward or punishment.

My lord, I have most carefully examined, what the word virtue means, to prevent this child's running away with an idea, that the whole is compriz'd in chastity; for I hold that to be only a concomitant, and my way of explaining it to her, is, that it is necessary a woman should have every other moral virtue to accompany that; and in order to attain to this pitch of perfection, I would  
have

have her general behaviour modest without constraint, affable without boldness, reserved without prudery, and gay without levity; and, by shewing her the advantages of temperance and patience, I hope to make them her choice. I shall endeavour too, to teach her humility, but without meanness; for I would give her such a consciousness of her own worth as may tend to her preservation. I will also endeavour to give her an idea of charity, not as it is commonly understood, but according to the true genuine sense and meaning of it; and I look upon one essential of that charity, we are recommended to practice for one another, to be an utter detestation for detraction. Truth my lord, I recommend as a fundamental never to be varied from, and the strictest watch over her passions; for tho' no human creature is able to attain a total government of them; yet, closely guarded, they may be kept in such subjection, as to give us the proper mastery of them; and, in that case, how many evils do we avoid; by remembering her of the ridiculous figure she frequently observes talking women make, she will find the necessity of a competent share of taciturnity; and that she may be sure to keep her own secrets, I have taught her to think it dishonest to betray other people's.

I remember an observation of *Montaigne*, who was scrupulously careful of the education of an only daughter, when his wife died, he took a governess into the house for her instruction; and being one day in hearing, when the young lady was reading, she came to the word which in *english* signifies a beach-tree, but in *french* bears a *double entendre*. The governess reproved her for not going over that word, with, *oh fie miss, you should have gone over that naughty word; you must never say it again.*

*Montaigne's*



Montaigne's reflections were upon this circumstance, that these sort of foolish cautions rais'd a curiosity in young girls minds, that was frequently fatal to them; and I am convinced he is right; for to teach young girls *prudery*, I verily believe may be as pernicious to them as *libertinism*. They learn from that to mask and conceal their passions, but never to conquer them; and they ly smothered only as fire pent up for want of air, which if ever they give vent to, spreads to their destruction. Therefore my lord, am I very careful how I talk mysteriously before this child; and whenever I mention any thing to her that concerns her behaviour towards the sex, I never talk of them as scarecrows; but endeavour to inculcate, how far they may, conducted by her own prudence, be instrumental to her happiness, and, without that special care of herself, to her misery.

She is a beautiful girl; yet, in my life, I never told her, that beauty had, or ought to have, one single grain of merit essential to her well-being: on the contrary, that there is no other way to make herself happy, but by endeavouring to cultivate those lasting accomplishments of which men never tire,—a well-taught, honest mind.

She has great sharpness of wit and vivacity. This, my lord, I keep under the severest constraint, by perpetually exposing to her view pictures of ridicule, in the characters of witty wives, which, begging their pardons, I must confess I think one of the greatest curses an honest man can be tormented with. In short, I have an utter abhorrence for wit at any rate, unless, as in your lordship, it is in a sensible, good-natur'd man's keeping; but in a wife it is productive of many ills. The first thing one of these witty ones generally finds out is, that  
her

her husband is a fool; and can there be a more dangerous situation in nature for a woman? they may flatter themselves, with an opinion of the figure they make in that light; but my lord, I do insist upon it, the only one they can ever shine in, is that which borrows it's lustre from their husbands.——But to return to my niece.

To prevent it ever creeping into her thoughts, that any woman can be a goddess, I take care her reading shall be suited to the lectures I give. I am not, nor in my life ever was, possessed of a novel or romance. She has *Telemaque* to read for the improvement of her *French*, Dr. *Tillotson* for her *English*, and both I hope for her moral instruction. *La Bruyere* I lay near her, by way of looking-glass; and now and then, instead of telling her what I mean, set her to translate some of the useful places. How my endeavours may succeed, heaven only knows; but these are the best methods I can suggest to train up a girl, by which she can ever learn what is *truly the duty of a woman*; and, if she lives to that estate, this ground-work I hope, will produce condescension, affability, temperance, prudence, charity, chastity, and wisdom, out of which materials if she does not make the man happy who falls to her lot, I am afraid it will be his own fault.

Your lordship is as good a judge as any man breathing what we ought to be. I beseech you tell me, if you think my system a good one. If my girl lives till she is twenty, I shall recommend to her perusal that celebrated performance of your lordship's, *the whole duty of man*; but at present the *morality it teaches*, I think is matter for older heads than her's. Indeed having the honour to be pretty well acquainted with your lordship, I am surprized when I

read



*read it; and unless I had had it from your own mouth that you were the author of that pious book, could never have believed your lucubrations could have turned upon a system of religion and self-denial, so full of austerity and mortification.*

Your lordship, will I hope pardon, my mentioning your being the *author of that inestimable piece*, as you enjoined me to no sort of secrecy; but I don't know where to produce an instance, that does so much honour to my own opinion, *that there is nothing we are so often mistaken in as appearances.* When one sees your lordship with a half-down cast look, twirling your thumbs, I must confess myself one of those heretics, who heretofore suspected your stified thoughts were much more governed by the flesh than the spirit. Methinks I now see your lordship, in the very position I have this moment described, turning your Thumbs one over the other, and that your thoughts are, *why, what an odd sort of a devil this is? there is no knowing what to make of her.* And in fine, that you are as much surpriz'd at a sheet of moral reasoning from me, as I can be when I turn over the *whole duty of man*, and recollect *Lord Chesterfield* to be the author.

My lord, give me leave to tell you, you have drawn this upon yourself: I told you my intention was to have done writing; and that if the world would forgive me the trespass I had made upon their patience, I would do so no more: Your lordship said, *no, positively no*, that I must still write again, and gave me for a subject the first which came into your head, *i. e. the whole duty of woman*; and to convince your lordship I thoroughly understood what that means in your sense of it, I look upon *obedience* to be a principal part; in consequence

sequence of which, I have wrote your lordship what I conceive the duty of a woman to be ; and the only certain means by which they can attain (at least) such a part of it as comes within my comprehension. I am however sensible, there may be great amendments made, and that several necessary hints may be given, towards the rendering my system compleat. I am quite conscious I fail ; but in what part, I must submit to abler heads.

Now, my lord, I don't at all doubt but this will draw the sneers of the smarters upon me, about which I declare myself absolutely unconcerned. I have already mentioned the impossibility, which I know I labour against, were I to attempt any justification of my own character ; for prejudice was and passion is, too mighty against me, for the voice of truth and reason to be heard ; and I know also, any string that is touch'd upon, to sound my praises, would be discord to the ears of a prejudiced world, whose food is calumny. There are the great vulgar as well as the small ; and I don't know that either of them overflow with the "*Milk of human kindness*."

Fame, as a writer, I am in so little concern for, it is a thing that never entered my head : therefore, criticisms can no way gall me ; and witticisms I can never fear, while your lordship is pleased to condescend to be my protector. The world has always been at war with me, under pretence of my leading a blameable life : I with them, for the reasons I have given ; and also, that there are but few of my enemies who do not apparently practise themselves the vices they pretend to disapprove in me ; but by the aid of fortune, or some other aid, they escape scandal ; or, which is the same thing, are above it. But I believe there is scarce

to



to be found a condition like mine. I was vilified by the world before I told what motives my actions had been governed by, and was condemned by all, to whom I related ever so small a part of my story, that, if it was true, I did not tell it to the public, in my own justification: I am now torn to pieces and abused, for having told truths that make so much against my enemies. Therefore, my lord, quite careless who are the laughers or frowners, I shall henceforward, proceed, endeavouring, as far as I am able, to do well; and am under no sort of concern for, or expectation of, the good word of the evil-minded, or the approbation of the malevolent and envious; neither will I endeavour to hit any man a box on the ear, who has not first trod upon my foot.

My lord, from this careless resolution I have taken up, I hope you will not imagine I am setting the world at defiance; quite otherwise: from the privileges I have taken myself, (inconsiderable as I am) I know every reader is superior to a writer; and that they are all vested with the natural power of applauding or blaming as they are inclined. But I have been informed by my father, (than whom no man had in his time greater experience, having, even from his childhood, been a soldier) that *frequent engagements make a man enter upon action with great unconcern*. Therefore as during my whole life, I have been accusom'd to the maltreatment of the world, whether deservedly or no, their wit will loose it's edge on me. It is not Mrs. *Phillips*, who by writing incurs their displeasure; it is her having shewn how far they have been accessory to her distresses: therefore will she sit down content, let them censure, or approve

prove; ever resolved to offend them as little as she can.

The performance I have lately made public, I do assure your lordship, I never intended should have seen the light, till I was laid in the grave; and quite indifferent of the success it would then have met with, I only meant to convince my own family I had not been so much to blame as they imagined, —and the world in general, that there was nothing so little to be depended upon as *common fame*. But my misfortunes have obliged me to do that for subsistence, I never designed to make any other use of than in my own justification: and I must confess I am now so well pleased it has happened so; since I see how *hard it is to convince a prejudiced world of truths, even tho' they are told of living people, who have it in their power, if injured, to set their wrongs in a true light*: And, had I been breathless, I make no doubt but Mrs. *Phillips*, *Apolo*gy would have been read in the character of a romance, as much as *Tom Jones*, or any other novel. —But it is, under all its disadvantages, now gone forth; and tho' as a great lord told me, *what tho' it be true he would deny it, and should be believed before me*; yet, my lord, as those I have accused still live, if I have done them wrong, they would do well to justify themselves, while I live; for if they delay till I am in the grave, it will be then too late. The moment my eyes are closed, the facts asserted in my books become immortal, even tho' deny'd by the noble lord I hint at, his cousin, &c. &c.

My lord, as to diction, stile, language, flowers of rhetoric, or any one art necessary to a writer, I know I am totally ignorant of them; and truth, plain truth, in it's native simple dress, is all I depend



pend on. The heroes of my history have forced me into a method to get my bread, I confess myself quite unqualified for ; but, as the variety of their actions have furnished me with inexhaustible matter, while I can scratch upon paper, I will if possible not sit down without a dinner : — Tho' I believe, when I have compiled the *promised sequel* to a history\*, part of which I have already related, your lordship will be of opinion, *that man had better have contented himself with seven dishes to have given me two, than have feasted upon nine with this sequel for his desert.*

It remains now, that I beg your lordship's pardon for taking up so much of your time, upon matters which I am quite conscious can afford you so little entertainment. When your lordship put it in my head to write this, and gave me leave to dedicate it to you, I very well knew what was your kind intention but if you will do me the honour to reflect how flattering the occasion is, which puts it in my power to open my heart to your lordship, you will excuse every crudity it contains. I can with sincere truth, aver, had heaven blessed me with talents capable of composing the most perfect piece, it should be at your lordship's feet I would lay it ; and I can further add, with the greatest truth, that, to what fate soever I am reserved, while I have existence, even time itself shall never diminish an atom of the profound respect, with which I shall always be,

\* The History of TARTUPE.

My LORD,  
Your LORDSHIP'S

most obedient,  
humble Servant,  
T. C. MUILMAN.

...The history of my history have forced  
me to a method to get my bread, I confess my-  
self quite unqualified for; but as the variety of  
transactions have furnished me with inexhaustible  
matter, while I can scribble upon paper, I will if  
possible not sit down without a dinner: — Tho'  
I believe, when I have compiled the present Je-  
tuel to a history\*, part of which I have already re-  
lated, your lordship will be of opinion, that your  
last letter does contain himself with (even after to  
have given me true, than have I could upon mine with  
his respect for his desire.

It remains now, that I beg your lordship's pardon  
for taking up so much of your time, upon matters  
which I am quite conscious can afford you no in-  
tertainment. When your lordship put it in  
my head to write this, and gave me leave to de-  
vote it to you, I very well knew, what was your  
kind intention, but if you will do me the honour  
to reflect how passing the occasion is, which  
puts it in my power to open my heart to your  
lordship, you will excuse every crudity it contains.  
I can with sincere truth, aver, had heaven blessed  
me with talents capable of composing the most  
perfect piece, it should be at your lordship's feet  
I would say; and I can further add, with the gra-  
test truth, that to what the favour I am referred,  
while I have existence, even time itself shall never  
diminish an atom of the profound respect, with  
which I shall always be,

\* The History of TARTARUS

Yours Lordship's  
J. C. MURRAY

J. C. MURRAY  
1791